

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method to provide copy protection for a content, the method  
2 comprising:

3 descrambling the content delivered by a content provider using a local  
4 key;

5 generating the local key from a programmable user key according to an  
6 authorization code provided by the content provider.

1 2. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

2 receiving the authorization code via a communication channel.

1 3. The method of Claim 2 wherein the communication channel is one  
2 of a return path of a cable connection, a telephone connection, and a network.

1 4. The method of Claim 1 further comprising receiving the user key  
2 from the content provider via the communication channel.

1 5. The method of Claim 1 wherein the user key is provided by a  
2 master CA device having the authorization code.

1 6. The method of Claim 1 wherein the user key is embedded in a  
2 medium embodying the content.

1 7. A conditional access (CA) device comprising:

2 a descrambler to descramble a content delivered by a content provider  
3 using a local key;

4 a key generator coupled to the descrambler to generate the local key from  
5 a user key according to an authorization code provided by the content provider

1 8. The CA device of Claim 7 further comprising:

2 a communication interface coupled to the key generator to receive the  
3 authorization code via a communication channel.

1 9. The CA device of Claim 8 wherein the communication channel is  
2 one of a return path of a cable connection, a telephone connection, and a  
3 network.

1 10. The CA device of Claim 7 wherein the communication interface  
2 further receives the user key from the content provider via the communication  
3 channel.

1 11. The CA device of Claim 7 wherein the user key is provided by a  
2 master CA device having the authorization code.

1 12. The CA device of Claim 7 wherein the user key is embedded in a  
2 medium embodying the content.

1 13. A computer program product comprising:

2 a computer usable medium having computer program code embodied  
3 therein to provide copy protection for a scrambled content, the computer  
4 program product having:

5 computer readable program code for descrambling the content delivered  
6 by a content provider using a local key;

7 computer readable program code for generating the local key from a  
8 programmable user key according to an authorization code provided by the  
9 content provider.

1 14. The computer program product of Claim 1 further comprising:  
2 computer readable program code for receiving the authorization code via  
3 a communication channel.

1 15. The computer program product of Claim 2 wherein the  
2 communication channel is one of a return path of a cable connection, a telephone  
3 connection, and a network.

1 16. The computer program product of Claim 1 further comprising  
2 computer readable program code for receiving the user key from the content  
3 provider via the communication channel.

1 17. The computer program product of Claim 1 wherein the user key is  
2 provided by a master CA device having the authorization code.

1 18. The computer program product of Claim 1 wherein the user key is  
2 embedded in a medium embodying the content.

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